

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee

3b. GSA Committee No.

2610

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

05/19/2017

6. Expected Renewal Date

05/19/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 501

13. Effective Date

05/19/2017

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates 1 17b. Closed Meetings and Dates 0 17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates 1 17d. Total Meetings and Dates 2

Purpose	Start	End
On October 23 and October 24, the Committee heard briefings from the three VA administration: Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration and National Cemetery Administration. The Committee also heard briefings from special program offices, as well as opening remarks from VA Senior Leaders, including the Chief Veterans Experience Office and the Committee Chair. Public comments were received at 9:00 a.m. on October 24, 2017.	10/23/2017	10/24/2017
On March 1, the Committee received briefings on VA's Veterans Experience Office, Caregiver Support Office, VA's Choose Home Initiative, and community partners. The Committee's subcommittees on Education and Awareness, Access and Eligibility, and Gaps and Innovation reported out on activities since the last meeting. Public comments received at 4:15 p.m. on March 1, 2018. On March 2, the Committee toured the VA facility and broke into small groups to participate in discussions and listening sessions with facility staff, families, caregivers, and survivors. Tours of VA facilities were closed, to protect from disclosure Veterans' information the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Therefore, on March 2, the meeting was closed to the public.	03/01/2018	03/02/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

Current FY Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$175,000.00	\$479,700.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$33,336.68	\$100,010.04
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$12,940.38	\$38,821.29
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$171,272.73	\$256,500.00
18d. Total	\$392,549.79	\$875,031.33
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.50	2.50

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee will accomplish its purpose through advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on: on how VA can assist and represent Veterans' families, caregivers, and survivors, including expanding services and benefits to Veterans' family members, caregivers, and survivors who are not currently served by VA; on incorporating lessons learned from current, and previous, successful family research and outreach efforts that measure the impact of provided care and benefits services on Veterans' family, caregivers, and/or survivors; on collaborating with family support program within VA and engaging with other VA and non-VA advisory committees focused on specific demographics of Veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors; on utilizing journey mapping or other means to depict the life experience cycle of families, caregivers, and survivors of Veterans to create a more holistic understanding of important life cycle events and their impacts; and integrating Veterans' families, caregivers, and survivors into key VA initiatives such as access to care, the Mission Act, modernizing systems, suicide prevention, and homelessness.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee was designed to represent all relevant populations (families, caregivers, and survivors) and additionally represents all branches of service, relationships to Veterans, periods of service, race and ethnic groups, and subject matter experts. The Committee is comprised of not more than 20 committee members, who be appointed by the Secretary. The members represent a cross-section of stakeholders that support Veterans' families, survivors, and caregivers. The Committee membership is drawn from various sectors and organizations such as Veteran-focused organizations; military history and academic communities; Veteran Service Organizations; Military Service Organizations; the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; non-profit, private, and corporate partners; research experts; service providers; Veterans' family

members, caregivers, and survivors; and leaders of key stakeholder associations and organizations.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee will meet approximately two to four times a year. In FY 2018, the Committee held two meetings: October 2017 (Washington DC) and March 2018 (Los Angeles CA).

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

VA only offers limited programs and services to these populations and does not have a direct line to these populations to better understand their need and concerns.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The Committee meetings are open to the public except when the Committee is introducing tours of VA facilities or participating in off-site events. Tours of VA facilities are closed, to protect Veterans' privacy and personal information.

21. Remarks

The Committee held its first inaugural meetings on October 23 and October 24, 2017 in Washington, DC.

Designated Federal Officer

Christine Merna Director, Veteran Experience and Community Engagement

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Buckler, Mary	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	Organizational Effectiveness Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carroll, Bonnie	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Comeau, Melissa	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	American Red Cross	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dole, Elizabeth	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	Elizabeth Dole Foundation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dominique, Harriet	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	Corporate Responsibility and Community Affairs, USAA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gillums, Sherman	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	AMVETS	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Keller, Mary	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	Military Child Education Coalition	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Koffman, Robert	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	Disabled Veteran and Behavioral Health Practitioner with Semper Fi Fund and Warrior Canines	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Linnington, Michael	09/14/2017	09/30/2019	Wounded Warrior Project	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Riley, Yvonne	09/14/2017	09/30/2019		Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Robinson, Joe 09/14/2017 09/30/2019 Phillips

Rogers, Elaine 09/14/2017 09/30/2019 USO of Metro Washington-Baltimore

Sutton, Loree 09/14/2017 09/30/2019 NYC Department of Veterans Affairs Services

Urena,
Francisco 09/14/2017 09/30/2019 Massachusetts Dept. of Veterans Affairs

White, Shirley 09/14/2017 09/30/2019 Gold Star Mothers

Woodruff, Lee 09/14/2017 09/30/2019 Bob Woodruff Foundation

Zinke, Lolita 09/14/2017 09/30/2019 Active in Veterans and Military Issues

Special Government
Employee (SGE) Member
Special Government
Employee (SGE) Member
Special Government
Employee (SGE) Member
Special Government
Employee (SGE) Member
Special Government
Employee (SGE) Member
Special Government
Employee (SGE) Member
Special Government
Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 17

Narrative Description

Not Applicable

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety

☐

Trust in government

☒

Major policy changes

☐

Advance in scientific research

☐

Effective grant making

☐

Improved service delivery

☐

Increased customer satisfaction

☐

Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements

☐

Other

☐

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None

☐

Unable to Determine

☒

Under \$100,000

☐

\$100,000 - \$500,000

☐

\$500,001 - \$1,000,000

☐

\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000

☐

\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000

☐

Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

☐
☐

Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

0

Number of Recommendations Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Not Applicable

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Not Applicable

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities
Reallocated resources

☐
☐

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Issued new regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Action Comments

Not Applicable

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Contact DFO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

Not Applicable